

Message Text

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43

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 MCT-01 EUR-12 AGR-05 AID-05 EB-07

USIA-06 COME-00 TRSE-00 SY-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PRS-01 PA-01 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 /098 W

----- 116078

R 210844Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 997

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 10407

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, UN,ET,UK

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPING OF FAO EXPERT

1. FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT OF AN APPEAL BY UNSYG WALDHEIM FOR RELEASE OF A KIDNAPPED UN EXPERT IN ETHIOPIA CARRIED ON VOA MORNING SEPT 21, CHARGE CALLED JOHN SAUNDERS, UNDP CHIEF IN ADDIS, FOR DETAILS.

2. ACCORDING SAUNDERS, TOM DAVIS, BRITISH CITIZEN, WHO IS AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH EXPERT FOR FAO, AND FOUR ETHIOPIANS WERE ON A ROUTINE MISSION TO A VILLAGE SOME 20 KMS EAST OF MEKELE, TIGRAI PROVINCE, ON SEPT 17. AREA HAD BEEN CONSIDERED FAIRLY SAFE, DAVIS WELL KNOWN AND HAD BEEN WORKING AREA FOR 6-7 MONTHS. GROUP WAS PICKED UP BY TWO MEN IN UNIFORM (UNIDENTIFIED) AND DRIVEN OFF IN THEIR OWN LANDROVER. FOUR ETHIOPIANS WERE LATER RELEASED, BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO FURTHER WORD OF DAVIS.

3. UNDP CONTACTED POLICE, MOFA AND MINISTRY OF INTERIOR. POLICE REPORT THEY HAVE FAIR IDEA OF WHERE
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DAVIS IS OR WAS BEING HELD (NOT FAR FROM MEKELE),

THEY ARE REASONABLY CONFIDENT HE IS SAFE, AND THAT
THERE MAY BE OPPORTUNITY FOR NEGOTIATION OF THIS RELEASE.
DEPUTY UNDP DIRECTOR LEFT ADDIS FOR MEKELE MORNING
SEPT 21 TO TALK WITH RELEASED ETHIOPIANS AND SEE WHAT
ELSE HE CAN LEARN. UNDP MEANWHILE HAS BEEN IN CLOSE
TOUCH WITH BRITISH EMBASSY HERE. SAUNDERS PROMISED KEEP
US INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS.
TIENKEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Authority: ShawDG
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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To: STATE
Type: TE
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